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Smarter Balanced Assessment Readiness
"Preparing Your School to Administer the Tests and Integrate Results into Practice"

Peter Drescher
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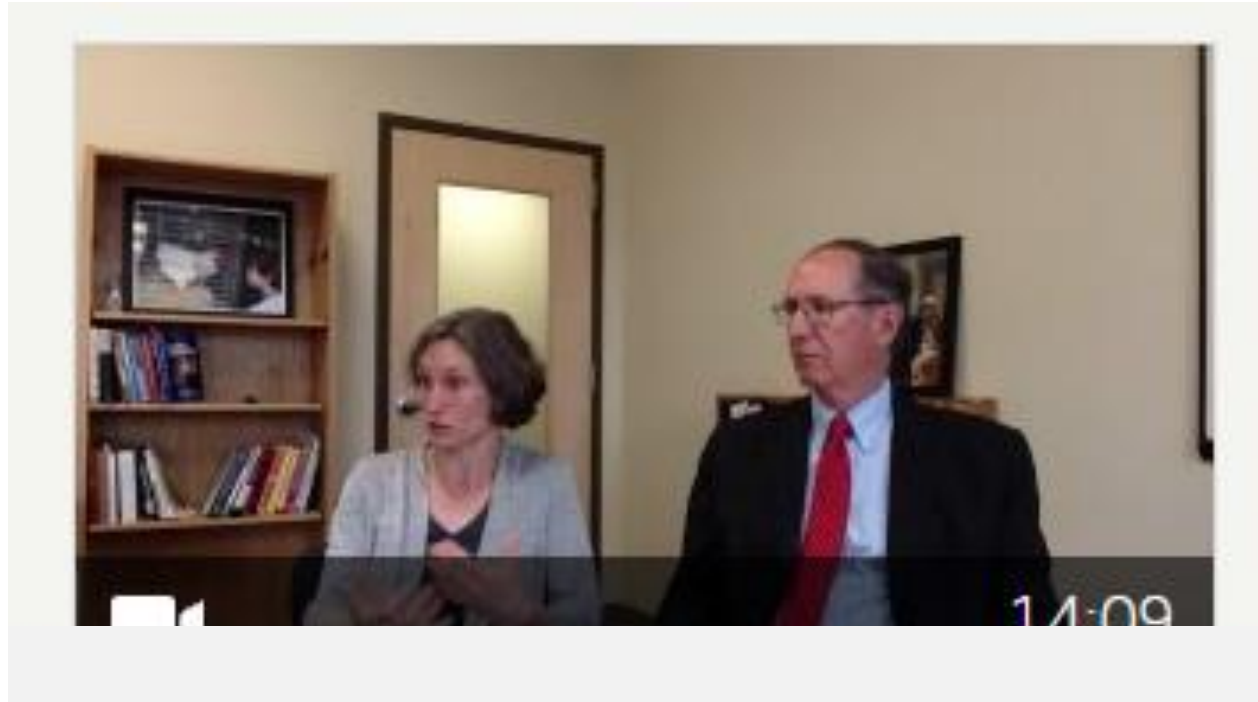
Michael Hock
Director of Educational Assessment

Plus: Panelists from Regional Elementary, Middle and High Schools
Smarter Balanced Field Test Participants, Spring 2014

October/November 2014 – Stratton, Montpelier, Colchester & Lyndonville

Secretary Holcombe discusses assessment with State Board member Bill Mathis

http://education.vermont.gov/sbac/sm-workshops

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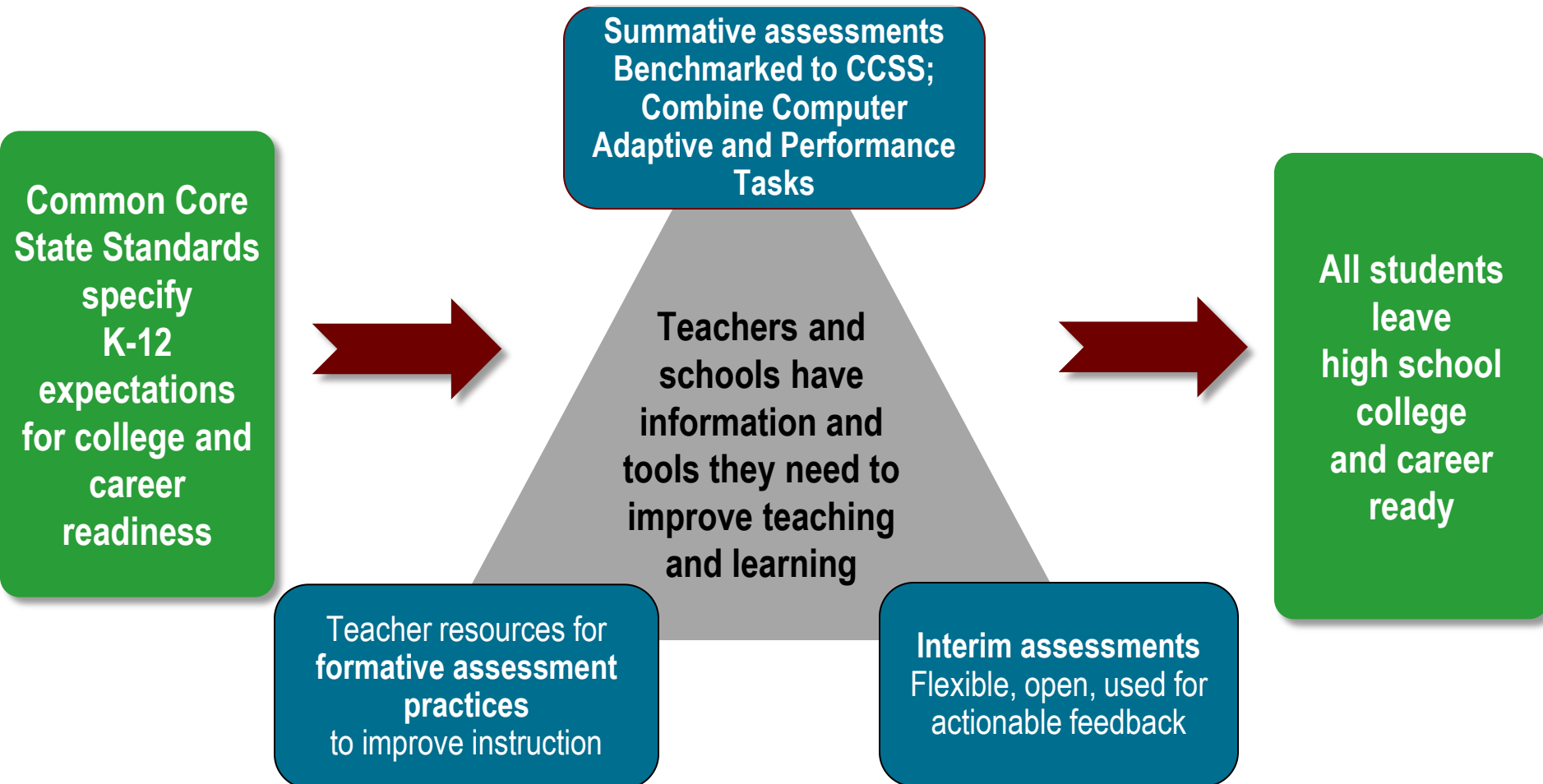# How will SBAC be different from NECAP?

	Smarter Balanced	NECAP
Content Standards	Common Core State Standards	Tri-State Grade Expectations
Achievement Descriptors	On Track to be Career and College Ready	Prepared for Next Grade Level Learning
Test Format	Web-Based	Pencil and Paper
Item Delivery	Computer Adaptive	Fixed Form/Common Item Set
Assessment Types	Summative, Interim and Formative	Summative
Item Types	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Tech Enhanced, Performance Task	Multiple Choice, Short Answer, Constructed response
Testing Window	El. & Middle 12 Weeks/Spring; HS 7 Weeks/ Spring	3 Weeks/ Fall
Results Turnaround	Some Scores Available Immediately; Remainder in About 1 Month	About 3 Months

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…But really it's all about the TECHNOLGY!

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What's so "balanced" about Smarter Balanced?

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

Summative assessments Benchmarked to CCSS; Combine Computer Adaptive and Performance Tasks

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

Teacher resources for **formative assessment practices** to improve instruction

Interim assessments Flexible, open, used for actionable feedback

All students leave high school college and career ready

What's the difference between summative, interim and formative assessments?

- **Summative Assessments** are administered at the end of a specific unit or period of learning, generally near the end of a school year. They are designed to "sum up" how much the student has learned over that period of time, and to determine if the student's achievement is sufficient to meet standards or pre-defined learning expectations.

- **Interim Assessments** are similar to summative assessments in terms of content but are designed to be administered more frequently in order to determine if students are on track to meet end of grade/unit standards, or to provide additional support or mid-course correction if needed.

- **Formative Assessments** are embedded in the day to day, minute to minute interactions between teachers and students. They are used to gauge the pacing of instruction and to determine if students are ready to move on to new material or if they need additional instruction. Formative assessments are often based on strategic questioning strategies, probes, short quizzes or performance events.

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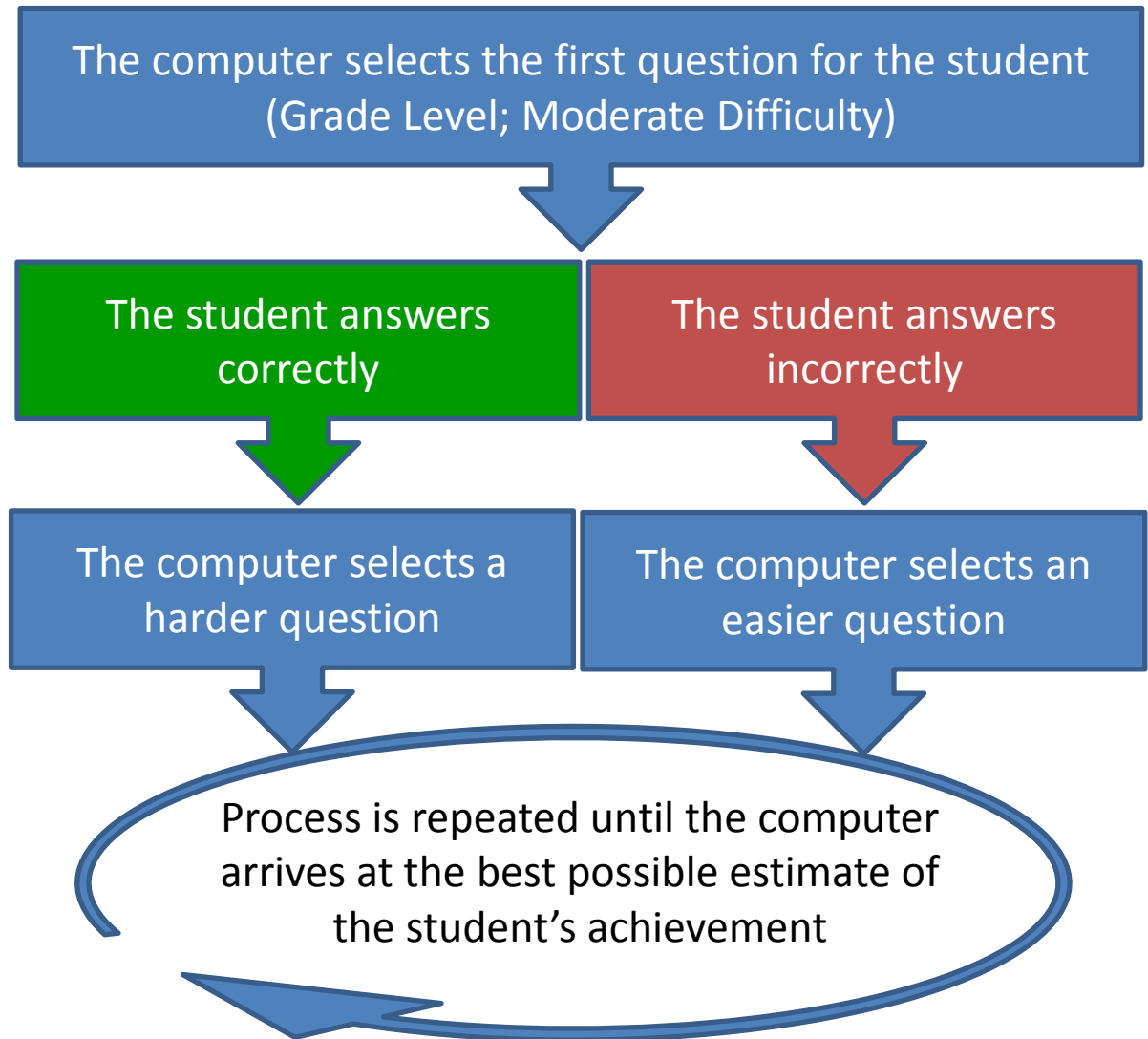
What's so special about SBAC?

Lots of things! Here are a few that stand out:

- Computer Adaptive Assessment
- Technology Enhanced Test Items and Test Delivery Engine
- Performance Assessment based on classroom activity
- Embedded Accessibility Features for Special Populations
- So far, students seem to like it

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What is computer adaptive testing?

The Computer Adaptive Assessment Algorithm Vastly Simplified

The computer selects the first question for the student (Grade Level; Moderate Difficulty)

The student answers correctly	The student answers incorrectly
The computer selects a harder question	The computer selects an easier question

Process is repeated until the computer arrives at the best possible estimate of the student's achievement

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What's so special about Computer Adaptive Testing (aka CAT)?

Increased precision	• Provides accurate measurements of student growth over time
Tailored for Each Student	• Item difficulty based on student responses
Increased Security	• Larger item banks mean that not all students receive the same questions
Shorter Test Length	• Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests
Faster Results	• Turnaround time is significantly reduced
Mature Technology	• GMAT, GRE, COMPASS (ACT), Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

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# Does CAT have any special advantages for special students?

- **PRECISE** – Unlike fixed form tests, CAT is precise at all ability levels, not just at the proficient cut score

- **EFFICIENT** – Takes less items than fixed form tests to reach a valid and reliable estimate of ability, reducing testing time by as much as 50%; results are available almost immediately.

- **RESPONSIVE & HUMANE** – CAT algorithm produces an individual item set for each student, adapting after each student response; item set comprised of items the student CAN and CAN'T answer in equal proportion

- **Secure and Adaptable** – CAT eliminates most test security concerns of fixed form tests allowing for longer test windows and small group or individualized administrations

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Technology Enhanced Test Items and Test Delivery Engine

Use this link to access the SBAC Portal:

http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/

Please note: Several of the embedded accessibility tools are available only if the secure browser is in use. It can be downloaded from the SBAC portal.

Student Interface Practice Test

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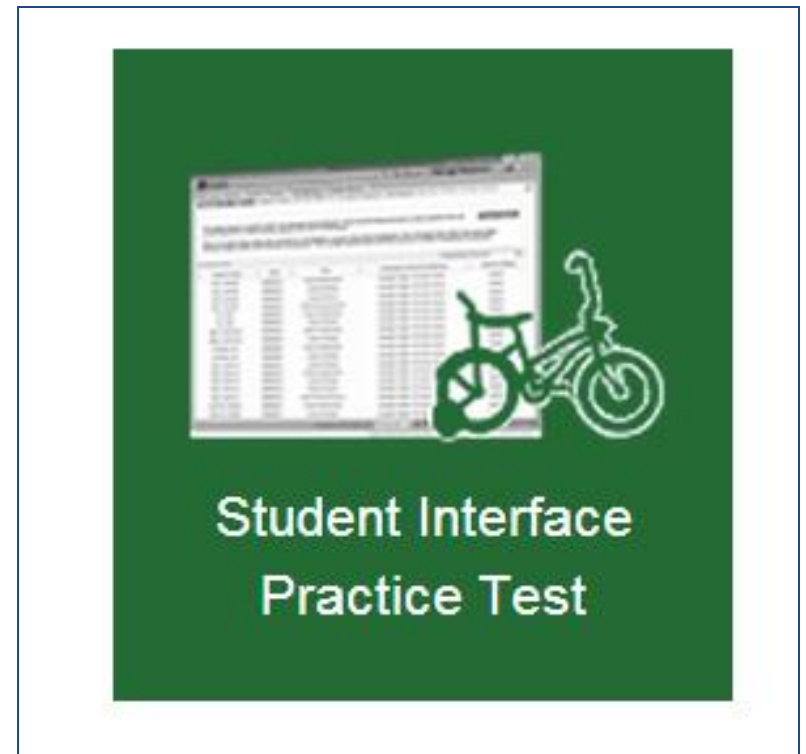
What role will performance tasks play?

Performance Tasks

- Extended projects demonstrate real-world writing and analytical skills
- May include online research, group projects, presentations
- Require 1-2 class periods to complete
- Included in both interim and summative assessments
- Applicable in all grades being assessed

" **The use of performance measures has been found to increase the intellectual challenge in classrooms and to support higher-quality teaching.** "

- **Linda Darling-Hammond and Frank Adamson, Stanford University**

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A Conceptual Model for SBAC Accessibility

A Conceptual Model for SBAC Accessibility

Universal Tools ⟶

Embedded
Breaks, Calculator, Digital Notepad, English Dictionary, English Glossary, Expandable Passages, Global Notes, Highlighter, Keyboard Navigation, Mark for Review, Math Tools, Spell Check, Strikethrough, Writing Tools, Zoom

Non-embedded
Breaks, English Dictionary, Scratch Paper, Thesaurus

Designated Supports

Embedded
Color Contrast, Masking, Text-to-speech, Translated Test Directions, Translations (Glossary), Translations (Stacked), Turn off Any Universal Tools

Non-embedded
Bilingual Dictionary, Color Contrast, Color Overlay, Magnification, Read Aloud, Scribe, Separate Setting, Translation (Glossary)

Accommodations

Embedded
American Sign Language, Braille, Closed Captioning, Text-to-speech

Non-embedded
Abacus, Alternate Response Options, Calculator, Multiplication Table, Print on Demand, Read Aloud, Scribe, Speech-to-text

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Print on Demand, Read Aloud,
Scribe, Speech-to-text

Embedded
American Sign Language,
Braille, Closed Captioning,
Text to Speech(Reading**)**

Non-Embedded
Abacus, Alternate
Response Options,
Calculator, Multiplication
Table, Print on Demand,
Read Aloud, Scribe,
Speech--to -Text

Read aloud for reading: Okay or Not Okay?

Decision Points: Solution must...

- Align with Standards
- Aim for Career College Ready
- Avoid Unintended Consequences

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Read aloud for reading: Okay if…

SBAC Policy:

- Read aloud for reading not permitted in Grades 3-5
- Permitted in Grades 6-8 and 11
- IEP/504 Plan: Must demonstrate persistent reading disability

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Planning for Students with Special Assessment Needs: The Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile (ISAAP)

ISAAP is a tool designed to help school teams match student accessibility needs with the tools embedded in the SBAC Test Interface. ISAAP, as well as other tools and documents for students with special assessment needs, can be accessed using this link:

http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/support-for-under-represented-students/

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**Preparation and development
of classrooms engaged
in digital learning**

LEADS TO....

**Classrooms ready to engage
in online assessment OR
SBAC Ready!**

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Device readiness:

YES: Chromebooks AND iPads/tablets are SBAC-compatible!

Chromebook addition to state contracts--post VTfest

Keyboards?--allow for choice
Pointing devices

Input devices: 2015-16 no stylus, microphone

There are things to prepare:

--Wireless access? Is it the best it can be?
--Are you purchasing new devices that meet SBAC requirements?
--Are you having teachers and students spend time in the environment?
--Are you on track to provide the best environment for student success?

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The "skills" students need:

digital citizenship

         digital communication/collaboration

           reasoning from evidence

               evaluating web resources-media literacy

                    cyber-safety and awareness

                          troubleshooting simple tech issues

                     writing, publishing in an online world

            building efficient processes with technology

          depth of thinking--researching

      creating tools, processes, innovations with technology

engaging other learners

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Prepare your staff...

Secure Browsers: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/

Resource Page: http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/resources/

Review the Readiness specs: http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/

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FIELD TEST: REPORT

Administered Spring 2014 Field Test

"Peak Load": 184,000 simultaneous test takers

Vermont:
- 5,700 Students
- 27 Schools
- More than 10,000 complete tests

Field Test by the Numbers

4.2 MILLION STUDENTS

16.5 THOUSAND SCHOOLS

12.2 MILLION TESTS COMPLETED*

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

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Field Test Lessons Learned

…From Test Coordinators

…From Tech Specialists

…From Test Administrators

…From Students

http://education.vermont.gov/sbac/sm-workshops

SBAC Readiness: What's Available Now?

- On the web @
  www.SmarterBalanced.org

- Sign up for the Smarter Balanced e-newsletter

- Follow the consortium on Twitter @SmarterBalanced

- On the VT AOE web @ http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/sbac.html

- E-Mail Michael or Frank of Peter@ Michael.Hock@state.vt.us Frank.Gerdeman@state.vt.us Peter.Drescher@state.vt.us

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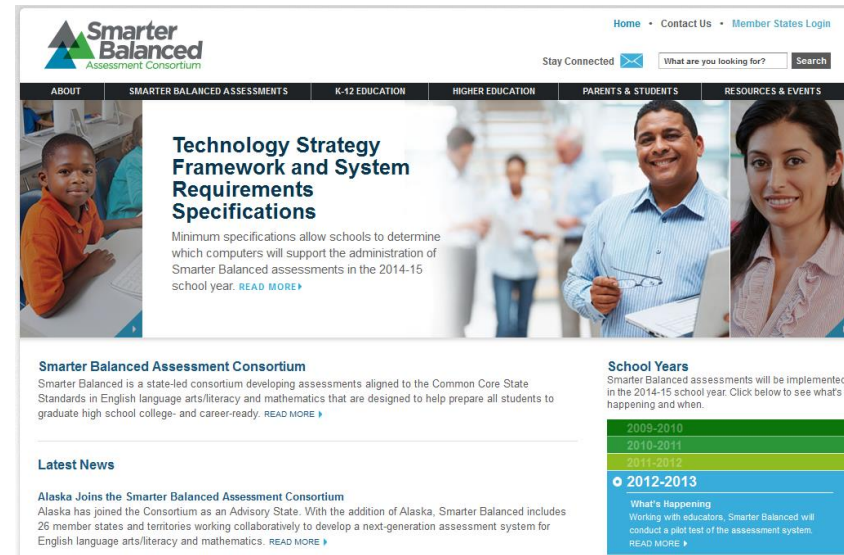
Practice Tests and Training tests – What's the Difference?

- **Practice Tests** allow teachers, students, parents and other interested parties to experience a full grade-level and gain insight into how Smarter Balanced will assess students' mastery of the standards. Includes a variety of question types and difficulty (@30 items each in ELA and math) as well as ELA and math performance tasks at each grade level (3-8 and 11). Includes all embedded universal tools, designated supports and accommodations

- **Training Tests** are designed to provide students and teachers with opportunities to quickly familiarize themselves with the software and navigational tools they will use on the 2015 assessments. Training tests are organized by grade bands (3-5, 6-8 and high school) and contains 14-15 questions selected to provide an opportunity to practice a range of question types. Includes all embedded universal tools, designated supports and accommodations but does not include performance tasks.

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SBAC Readiness: What's On the Way....

- ## Training Modules

  - Embedded Universal Tools and Online Features

  - Performance Task Overview

  - Student Interface Module

- ## Digital Library

  - Resources to support formative assessment practices

  - Collaboration features

  - Virtual Tour available via AOE Website

- ## Interim Assessments

  - Can be used throughout the year

  - Grades 3-68and high school are supported – high school assessments consistent with grade 11 summative design and my be administered in grades 9-12

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What are formative assessment tools and professional resources?

Digital Professional Development Library

- Research-based, **on-demand tools and resources for teachers**
- Aligned to **Common Core,** focused on increasing student learning and enabling **differentiation of instruction**
- **Professional development** materials include model units of instruction and publicly released assessment items, formative strategies
- Developed by **teams of educators** from the member states

" **Few initiatives are backed by evidence that they raise achievement. Formative assessment is one of the few approaches proven to make a difference.** "

- **Stephanie Hirsh, Learning Forward**

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What is an interim assessment?

Interim Assessment (Computer Adaptive)

- Two options: Interim Comprehensive and Interim Assessment Blocks
- Interim is not "secure", meaning there are no restriction on how many times you use it, or who can view the items (keeping in mind that individual student results may not be shared without parent permission)
- Items come out of the same pool as the summative assessment. All are of the same consistent high quality.
- Includes all accessibility features.
- Most questions are "machine scored." Teachers score constructed response using rubrics and exemplars that are provided by SBAC

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Interim Assessment Types and Availability

Implementation Schedule

- Interim Comprehensive Assessment – Assess the same range of standards and provides scores on the same scale as the Summative Assessment
  - Fixed Form – December 2014
  - Adaptive Form – SY 2015-16

- Interim Assessment Blocks – Focus on smaller sets of related concepts and provide more detailed information for instructional purposes
  - Fixed Form – January 2015
  - Adaptive Form – SY 2016-17

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What do school boards need to know?

- **COST** – All the direct costs for development, administration, scoring and reporting the Smarter Balanced Assessments will be covered by the State of Vermont

- **SCHOOL/DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES** – (1) computers, (2) access to the internet, (3) headphones or earbuds, (4) tech support for set-up, (5) staff for test administration, (6) released time for training test administrators

- **TECHNOLOGICAL DEMANDS** - SBAC will place mild to moderate demands on the technology infrastructure of typical US schools…

  Geoff Fletcher, SETDA: *"If a school can't handle these tests then the school has much bigger problems because their students will not be able to access all the excellent digital learning tools that are being introduced every day."*

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Questions

What else would you like to know?

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